



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

HARRIS METHODIST FT. WORTH
3255 W. PIONEER PARKWAY
ARLINGTON TX 76013

Respondent Name

NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-09-5129-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Since TDI moved to a %-over-Medicare allowance for hospital claims, we have reviewed the Medicare APC allowance and decided the insurance reimbursement does not meet our own determination of fair and reasonable. Medicare would have allowed this facility \$3376.03 for APC #154 and 183. Allowing this at 140%-which is extremely reasonable since the fee schedule change to 200% three days later-would be \$4726.44. Based on their payment of \$119.00, a supplemental payment of \$3608.44 is due."

Amount in Dispute: \$3,608.44

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "As the Requestor, the health care provider has the burden to proof that the fees paid were not fair and reasonable. In summary the Requestor was paid more than a fair and reasonable amount as determined in accordance with the criteria for payment under the ACT and is not entitled to additional reimbursement from Hartford Insurance Co."

Response Submitted by: New Hampshire Insurance Co., 300 S. State St., Syracuse, N& 13202

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
February 25-26, 2008	Outpatient Surgery	\$3,608.44	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.

2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 provides for fair and reasonable reimbursement of health care in the absence of an applicable fee guideline.
3. Texas Labor Code §413.011 sets forth provisions regarding reimbursement policies and guidelines.
4. This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on January 13, 2009.
5. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - 89 – Professional fees removed from charges. Services billed for Radiology, lab and/or pathology by a hosp. should normally be billed at the TC rate.
 - W10 – No maximum allowable defined by fee guideline. Reimbursement made based on insurance carrier fair and reasonable reimbursement methodology. Reduced to fair and reasonable.
 - 16 – Claim/serv lacks info which is needed for adjudication. In order to review this charge we need a copy of the invoice detailing the cost to the provider.
 - 45 – Charges exceed your contract/legislated fee arrangement. Paid in accordance with Texas CorCare Certified Network PPO Contract.

Findings

1. The submitted EOB used payment exception code “45 - Charges exceed your contract/legislated fee arrangement. Paid in accordance with Texas CorCare Certified Network PPO Contract.” In accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(e)(1) Medical Fee Dispute Resolution requested a copy of the contract from the Respondent, between the informal/voluntary network and Harris Methodist – Ft. Worth, under the authority stated in Texas Labor Code §413.011(d-3). The Respondent submitted a letter stating, “Please be advised that although CorCare name is listed, the PPO contract was not applied.” Therefore the denial reasons was not supported and the disputed issues will be reviewed per applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.
2. This dispute relates to services with reimbursement subject to the provisions of Texas Administrative Code §134.1, effective May 2, 2006, 31 *Texas Register* 3561, which requires that, in the absence of an applicable fee guideline, reimbursement for health care not provided through a workers’ compensation health care network shall be made in accordance with subsection §134.1(d) which states that “Fair and reasonable reimbursement: (1) is consistent with the criteria of Labor Code §413.011; (2) ensures that similar procedures provided in similar circumstances receive similar reimbursement; and (3) is based on nationally recognized published studies, published Division medical dispute decisions, and values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments, if available.”
3. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual’s behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(B), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include “a copy of each explanation of benefits (EOB), in a paper explanation of benefits format, relevant to the fee dispute or, if no EOB was received, convincing documentation providing evidence of carrier receipt of the request for an EOB.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the request does not include a copy of the EOB detailing the insurance carrier’s response to the request for reconsideration. Nor has the requestor provided evidence of carrier receipt of the request for an EOB. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(B).
5. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(E), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include “a copy of all applicable medical records specific to the dates of service in dispute.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not provided copies of all medical records pertinent to the services in dispute. Although the requestor did submit a copy of the operative report, the requestor did not submit a copy of the anesthesia record, post-operative care record, or other pertinent medical records sufficient to support the services in dispute. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(E).
6. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iii), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include “a position statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include”... “how the Labor Code, Division rules, and fee guidelines impact the disputed fee issues.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the Labor Code, Division rules and fee guidelines impact the disputed fee issues. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iii).

7. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(G), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires the requestor to provide “documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement) when the dispute involves health care for which the Division has not established a maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR), as applicable.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that:

- The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- The requestor did not submit nationally recognized published studies or documentation of values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments to support the requested reimbursement.
- The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

Conclusion

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	January 26, 2012
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.